



MARXIST-LENINIST WEEKLY

ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRELAND (MARXIST-LENINIST)

Vol. 18 N.o.18

June 17th 1988

'Spirit of Freedom'
Picket Glencree Centre
Meetings
at Royal Dublin Hotel



THEOBALD WOLFE TONE

Nearly two hundred years ago, under the leadership of Theobald Wolfe Tone, the United Irishmen eradicated the 'divide and rule' tactics of British colonialism in Ireland and forged the modern, unitary Irish nation of the heroic 1798 Rising, thereby abolishing the artificial segregation and differentiation of people in Ireland under the spurious categorisation of separate and opposing religious sects. The United Irishmen thus succeeded in substituting the common name of Irishman in place of these foreign-imposed religious labels - an historic achievement which can never be undone or blotted out.

REVIEW OF ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT -SIMPLY A REVIEW OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN MAINTAINING PARTITION AND FOREIGN IMPERIALIST ENSLAVEMENT OF IRELAND

Next Tuesday, 21st June, at 8 p.m. the Glencree Centre is holding the final meeting in its current series of four meetings at the Royal Dublin Hotel, O'Connell Street, Dublin, a series entitled 'The Hillsborough Accord - A Review'.

The topic of this meeting is the 'inter-governmental issues' in the operation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement (signed by Thatcher and Fitz-Gerald at Hillsborough Castle in the north of Ireland on November 15, 1985); and various 'Free' State and British politicians are to take the platform to discuss these.

Will this meeting make any contribution to solving the problems in Ireland today?

Quite the opposite. This Glencree Centre-organised 'unofficial' review of the Hillsborough Accord is simply part and parcel of the official review of the Anglo-Irish Agreement itself, which is to be conducted by the British imperialists in conjunction with their agents in Ireland, the national traitor representatives of the Irish monopoly bourgeoisie - the politicians and parties both of constitutional 'nationalism' and of unionism. The Anglo-Irish Agreement - since it is in fact the current means of maintaining British colonial occupation of the north, partition and thereby imperialist domination and exploitation of all of Ireland -

embodies the whole complex of interlinking tactics of British 'divide and rule' of deception and official and unofficial state terrorism which are the cause of all the problems in Ireland. Therefore such agreements or their review can certainly not contribute to solving the problems afflicting (or rather inflicted upon) the Irish people.

These Glencree Centre meetings are simply another kite-flying exercise organised by the British imperialists to test public opinion and see what they can get away with when they do review the Anglo-Irish Agreement in November.

Next Tuesday - at the call of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) - 'Spirit of Freedom' Committee is organising another protest picket outside the Glencree Centre meeting at the Royal Dublin Hotel, O'Connell Street.

But if the Glencree Centre has such enlightened and disinterested objectives - according to their own account they work 'to promote reconciliation and peace in Ireland' (and who of course does not want these things?) - what is the evidence on which CPI(ML) and 'Spirit of Freedom' have based their analysis of the sinister intent of the activities of the Glencree Centre and consequently the decision
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to organise these pickets against these meetings?

What Exposes The Real Objectives of the Glenree Centre?

We can see most clearly what the true objectives of the Glenree Centre are from the fact that their meetings are being organised on exactly the same basis that the Anglo-Irish Agreement itself is framed: namely, that the problems in Ireland are caused by divisions between 'two opposed communities and traditions', variously described as 'protestant/unionist/British' and 'catholic/nationalist/Irish'. The fact that a foreign power is unjustly interfering in the internal life of another nation, occupying part of it and partitioning it as a whole - all in total illegal violation of democratic principles on the rights of nations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations signed by Britain itself - has nothing to do with the problems . . . according to such an 'analysis'!

These Glenree Centre meetings are therefore organised to push the British imperialist 'analysis' of 'the Irish problem' as part of the British ruling class' abiding objective of disarming Irish resistance by concealing Britain's crime of foreign interference as the cause of all evils in Ireland.

Evidence that this is the true purpose of the Glenree Centre meetings is provided by the British military authorities themselves, who have written at some length on the problem of maintaining imperialism around the world, the tactics of what they call 'counter-insurgency'. A key component of any 'counter-insurgency' strategy that is to have any hope of success - so the British 'experts' proclaim - is not so much direct military actions (or, to be more exact, not military action alone), but what they describe as "winning the hearts and minds of the people".

In the words of the most notorious British military expert in counter-revolutionary warfare for the subjugation of colonies etc., the government "*must also promote its cause and undermine that of the enemy by disseminating its view of the situation, and this involves a carefully planned and co-ordinated campaign of what for want of a better word must regrettably be called psychological operations*". ('Low Intensity Operations' by Brigadier Frank Kitson, p.71).

These meetings at the Royal Dublin Hotel are clearly part of the

psychological operations which the British imperialists are conducting in manifold ways these days in their preparations for their forthcoming review the Anglo-Irish Agreement. And, in fact, over the last ten years a number of articles and books, for instance 'Britain's Military Strategy in Ireland - The Kitson Experiment' by Roger Faligot (Brandon Books 1983), have identified organisations such as the 'Glenree Centre for Reconciliation' as fronts set up by British Intelligence. The fact that these really are fronts set up to push British imperialist black propaganda and disinformation is not contradicted, but rather confirmed by other facts which are widely appreciated - for instance, the fact that innocent though rather naive people may be caught up in the work of such organisations on the basis of illusions about achieving 'peace through reconciliation'. For this is what the British imperialists intend with such fronts, in rather the same way that they make a practice of building their military strongpoints in the north in the grounds of schools and other such buildings, i.e. in order to make them the less vulnerable to attack.

These fraudulent 'debates' are being organised by the Glenree Centre at the behest of the British imperialists in order to promote Irish acceptance of foreign imperialist subjugation, partition and internal fascism and sectarian division under the guise of 'promoting reconciliation and democracy'!!

Thus although the Glenree Centre - by its own account "founded in 1974 as a response to violent conflict in Ireland" - claims that such activities are part of its work to "promote the conditions for a just and peaceful society", these meetings are actually working to perpetuate the true cause of all the problems in Ireland, including internal conflict. By the very fact that they are posing the question of peace in Ireland as a matter of 'reconciling two opposing communities and traditions', the Glenree Centre is further inciting the very sectarian divisions which they allege they are interested to bring to an end through 'reconciliation'. By persisting in such an approach the Glenree Centre is therefore contributing to one of the main means by which the British imperialists have maintained their power in Ireland (apart, of course, from naked military power and state terrorism, including

covert death-squads such as the U.D.A., U.V.F. etc.) - their tactics of 'divide and rule'.

So it is for these reasons that the 'Spirit of Freedom' Committee, at the call of the party of the Irish working class, the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist), has been carrying out pickets to make the people aware of the true and truly sinister purpose of these Glenree Centre meetings and mobilise democratic opinion against such anti-democratic forums; against such platforms which are in fact consciously set up in order to spread the fascist ideology concocted to condition Irish people into acceptance of foreign imperialist servitude and partition. And - make no mistake about it - this is with the objective of maintaining this rotten status quo in perpetuity. For, according to the analysis of Tom King, Britain's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, partition is actually guaranteed by the Anglo-Irish Agreement "in perpetuity".

But the Irish people - with the working class led by its Marxist-Leninist party, CPI(ML), uniting all democratic and patriotic people - are giving the British imperialists and all their agents, the national traitor monopoly bourgeoisie, the proper answer!

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Review of Anglo-Irish Agreement

COULD THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REALLY BE INTERESTED IN ENDING SECTARIAN DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE NORTH?

Just recently the British Government published a "White Paper on Fair Employment" with the alleged intention of combating job discrimination in 'Northern Ireland'.

'Progress' by the British government in making 'reforms' on this front is one of the oft-stated yardsticks against which the southern 'Free' State parties as well as the S.D.L.P. in the north (i.e. the constitutional 'nationalist' parties) intend to measure 'progress' under the Anglo-Irish Agreement in the forthcoming review in November. Thus this White Paper is yet another aspect of the many-sided tactics of the Anglo-Irish Agreement itself.

This White Paper, which will form the basis for legislation to be introduced as "soon as possible", provides for the compulsory "monitoring" of the "religious affiliation" of their workforces by employers and the submission of annual reports on this to the "Fair Employment Commission" (a revamped version of the current Fair Employment Agency). Failure to provide a religious categorisation of the workforce will result in prosecution and the imposition of fines of up to £2,000. Companies considered to be not "providing equality of opportunity" on the basis of these returns will allegedly become "ineligible for Government contracts and grants".

Can it be said that these measures will have any effect in ending sectarianism and discrimination in the Six Counties?

The Role of 'Anti-Discrimination' In British 'Divide and Rule'

The introduction of measures such as outlined in the "White Paper on Fair Employment" by the British imperialists, although proclaimed as 'anti-sectarian', actually serves to bolster the

entirely fraudulent and sectarian 'analysis' they present of the situation in Ireland - i.e. as a problem of internal Irish division of 'protestant versus catholic'. Such measures are to enable the British imperialists to portray themselves yet again as the 'honest brokers' who are trying to put an end to the sectarianism of the Irish when in fact they themselves are the authors of sectarianism.

Thus, not only will these measures do nothing to end sectarianism and discrimination, just as the Fair Employment Agency did nothing before, they actually reinforce the British imperialist tactic of 'divide and rule' through substantiating the myth of 'two communities with opposed traditions' by enabling them to pin these entirely artificial religious labels still more firmly on people by arbitrarily stereo-typing them in this or that category in the official statistics. Still more dangerously, this will provide the British government with the information and legislative power to threaten this or that section of workers with the loss of their jobs so as to - allegedly - provide 'fair employment' to these or those others who do not have jobs.

What a recipe for whipping up sectarianism!

Technique to create artificial division to cover up real division

Such tagging of the population from birth is of course deliberately designed to substitute a false categorisation of people to artificially impose a division within the one, single All-Ireland Irish nation in order to cover up the real division - a division which once understood and firmly grasped by the working class and their allies (the mass of other exploited sections of the people) will spell doom for continued

foreign imperialist domination and national sell-out in our country.

As an integral component of the world system of capitalism and imperialism, the Irish nation is divided into different classes. And corresponding to the general trend of development of capitalist society, especially under monopoly capitalism, society here is polarising just as elsewhere more and more into two main opposing classes - the monopoly bourgeoisie and the proletariat (the working class) - the first comprising only the most tiny handful of parasites who do not contribute anything in the way of labour to the wealth of the nation but who swallow up the wealth produced by others as the owning class, while the latter represent the overwhelming majority of the nation, those who work and are the real wealth creators.

These two contending classes fight for influence over the various intermediate strata - small farmers and other kinds of small owners, fishermen, handicraftsmen and small businessmen, as well as civil servants and professional people of various categories. These intermediate strata are quite numerous in the case of a country like Ireland, where the development of the economy has been entirely held back or else developed in a distorted, lop-sided and entirely foreign-dependent way; and where there is an extraordinary abundance of state officialdom since Ireland has been forced to support two oppressive bureaucratic administrations.

The ability of the exploiting monopoly bourgeoisie to maintain their hegemony over the intermediate strata (i.e. thus contributing to maintaining foreign imperialist subjugation in the case of Ireland) depends on the bourgeoisie preventing the workers uniting on a class-conscious basis for national and social liberation by organising in and under the leadership

of their own independent political party - a party to organise revolution. It is for such reasons that the British imperialists are once again stoking the furnace of sectarianism by which the false allegiance of those who are exploited to the leadership of those who exploit and oppress them is perpetuated. This is being made more sophisticated by carrying out the fomenting of sectarian division under the guise of 'opposing sectarianism' (in recognition of the fact that the mass of Irish people have only hatred for sectarian division). But this only goes to prove once again that there can however be no cure expected from the gods of plague.

The attitude of class-conscious workers to 'anti-discrimination'

The current tactics of the British imperialists in their preparation for the review of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, in particular reflected in this 'anti-discrimination' "White Paper on Fair Employment", demonstrate once again the necessity for workers to take up Marxism-Leninism and organise politically as a class under the leadership of their own party, the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist).

Only Marxism-Leninism, the only scientific guide to the class struggle, can enable the workers to see through the traps which British imperialism and the bourgeoisie set up to ensnare workers in their own good, democratic sentiments.

British imperialism's current attempt to don the garb of 'anti-sectarianism' in this "White Paper on Fair Employment" is just one such trap.

It is only through the working class organising their revolutionary struggle under the leadership of their own Marxist-Leninist party, and by taking up the democratic banner to free the nation from the very source of sectarian division as well as all the other problems - British imperialism - that sectarianism can be smashed. This democratic national struggle is a struggle which is just in itself, but it is a fact that it is also an essential precondition for the establishment of socialism in Ireland that the blight of sectarianism be overcome.

The workers, therefore, will smash sectarianism themselves - i.e. in the revolutionary not the 'British imperial reformist' way - as a result of the workers' own need to get organised as

a class. The workers will unite the entire Irish people, the mass of other sections of the working people who are their allies, behind their leadership as the vanguard class of the nation in the struggle to free and re-unite Ireland and replace foreign imperialism and the capitalist system by socialism.

The attempts of British imperialism and the Irish bourgeoisie to dupe the working class and Irish people under the Anglo-Irish Agreement, including through this "White Paper on Fair Employment", are becoming so threadbare today, in the conditions where the Marxist-Leninist party - the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) - is firmly established and agitating ever more widely and deeply, that all these 'divide and rule' tactics will end in rebounding on their authors, our common oppressors, whatever the alleged 'differences' in our backgrounds.

The working class is increasingly grasping the nature of the real division in Ireland, the class division between exploiters and exploited, on which is erected the entire system of foreign imperialist domination and national sellout. Thus the workers increasingly see that it is only the tiny parasitic Irish monopoly bourgeoisie who constitute a section of Irish people with a real, material stake in working for foreign imperialism in Ireland. Others might be misled on the basis of false and lying propaganda and political manipulation. But such people can see how they have been misled and can change their stand once their eyes are opened.

This is why, when this division becomes widely understood and firmly grasped, this will spell doom for continued foreign imperialist domination and national sell-out in our country. Since those intermediate strata and masses of people, who presently - not yet seeing a clear alternative - trail at the coat-tails of the Irish monopoly bourgeoisie and their politics of unionism and constitutional 'nationalism', will then unite around the revolutionary working class and leave the national traitors and the foreign imperialists completely exposed and isolated.

Marxist-Leninist Weekly calls on the working class to expose British imperialism's 'Fair Employment' White Paper for what is really is - yet another weapon of foreign-imposed sectarianism and part of the sinister 'divide and rule' tactics of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Did the Moscow summit contribute - as the official communique claimed - to creating a "safer world for mankind"?

Even within a couple of weeks the euphoric statements of Gorbachev and Reagan, Margaret Thatcher et al about the significance of the Moscow summit seem to have become some distant, faint recollection from long ago.

But, nevertheless, it is a fact that whilst these summits have no real significance in terms of disarmament - (the pattern of post-summit escalation in the arms race is something which is widely appreciated) - decisions ARE made there and these decisions and their consequences the people of the world do have to live with in the summit's aftermath.

In fact, one cannot even agree with the cynic who says that 'Even if such superpower summits don't live up to their claims of peace-making at least they don't do any harm'. The lesson is clear: whether the superpowers are in a state of contention and heightened conflict, or whether they are temporarily collaborating with each other, the manoeuvres of these superpowers either way threaten new dangers and even actually rain disaster on people in specific cases, as well as ultimately contributing to raising the stakes for a future global conflict.

The sort of thing which comes to mind is the superpower talks 'to resolve regional conflicts', which - in the absence of anything new on the missiles front - loomed large in Moscow. Much is being made of 'The Afghan model' in terms of such resolution of regional conflicts. But is it true that the current withdrawal of Soviet troops demonstrates the claim of the official communique that the Moscow summit contributed to creating a "safer world for mankind"?

Of course, it goes without saying that it is a good thing that Soviet troops are being withdrawn from Afghanistan. But it is quite another thing to swallow the hook that comes inside the bait - that now peace will come to the Afghan people thanks to the two superpowers, or that such a model will mean the removal of the American threat to the peoples of Central America, as commentators speculate is the reciprocal gesture on the part of the United States.

One of the most important things at this time is for the working class and people to maintain their vigilance against these kind of illusions peddled by the bourgeoisie and the imperialists. The bourgeoisie want the people and nations to leave their destiny in the hands of their class and in the hands of the superpowers. But if Soviet troops are being withdrawn (and, remember, only a fraction have gone so far) this is a tribute to the patriotic ardour and self-sacrifices of the heroic Afghan people, not to Gorbachev's policy of 'glasnost' OR to Reagan's 'pressure' on the Soviet Union 'in defence of freedom fighters and human rights'.

Only the struggles of the working class and the nations can avert the danger of world war, resolve regional conflicts and end national oppression. Only with the overthrow of imperialism as a system and the replacement of capitalism by socialism, with free nations freely associating without dominion or dependence, can the world really be made safe for humanity.

Title: Marxist-Leninist Weekly, Vol. 18, No. 18

Organisation: Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist)

Date: 1988

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